

The public Meeting above alluded to, was a call on "the *friends of Jackson*" which insured a packed Jury with a verdict responsive to the call. But one ante-man attended (Mr Hines)<sup>119</sup> who asked permission to speak and was granted as a *favor* as he was an uninvited guest—Dr Potts<sup>120</sup> who figures as sponsor for the Resolution is a zealous partizan of the administration (of President & *Vice-President*), and a warm supporter of Bedford Brown—and is doubtless so aiming to shape public opinion as to operate as instructions to himself & colleagues in the next legislature to support the course of Mr Brown

The above meeting has been proclaimed abroad as a general meeting of the citizens and the *largest* ever held here—But the fact is it was an express invitation to the "Friends of Jackson" and altho the meeting was called and published for fortnight, before, & due diligence & notice employed, the meeting did not exceed 75 or 80, and the *same* persons who *drafted* and organized the meeting here & in part composed it, have performed the same manoeuvre in the upper part of the county.—and succeeded in getting up a *still smaller* meeting.<sup>121</sup>—the leaders and most of the component part being the same—

Thus they manufacture public sentiment, and large meetings here—and thus the notes of Praise and censure with the powers of ventriloquism are wafted from the various part of Edgecombe

The lower counties of this Cong. District is or said to be in decided opposition to the administration on the Deposit question from three of them you have already presented memorials. A piece in a late Star from Pitt Co. signed "A Voice" was written by Henry Toole<sup>122</sup> who informs me that your course is generally sustained there.

My friend Dr Hall differed from many of his constituents on this immediate question. but his political principles are sound and always command the support of his District — We place great reliance on him—

I hope you will pardon this trespass on your attention—I considered it due to yourself and your friends here that this matter should be fairly represented to you that you may properly estimate both the *quantity & quality* of censure which has been

<sup>119</sup>Richard Hines.

<sup>120</sup>Dr. John W. Potts was a member of the state legislature from 1832 to 1834. *N. C. Manual*, 602.

<sup>121</sup>On April 28, a meeting of the militia drew up resolutions similar to those on March 31. *Senate Documents*, 23 Cong., 1 sess. Doc. No. 310, 2 pp.

<sup>122</sup>Henry Toole was a member of the state legislature from Edgecombe County in 1831. *N. C. Manual*, 763.